

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A method of evaluating a solid phase for use in a dual bead assay, the method comprising selecting a test solid phase, binding a probe to the test solid phase in the presence or absence of a cross-linking agent, determining the total amount of probe bound to the test solid phase in the presence or absence of a cross-linking agent, determining the percentage of probe bound covalently to the solid phase, determining the amount of probe bound to the solid phase non-covalently, and calculating the percentage of probe bound covalently to the solid phase, wherein if no less than approximately 80% of the probe is bound covalently, the solid phase is suitable for use in a dual bead assay.
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- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the solid phase is a bead.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the bead is a magnetic bead.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the solid phase is a surface on a biodisc.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the probe is a nucleic acid.
- 25 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the nucleic acid is double-stranded.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the probe is a protein.
- 30 8. The method of claim 5 or 7, wherein the probe further comprises a linker.

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9. The method of claim 8, wherein the linker is at least one polyethylene glycol moiety.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the test solid phase is attached
5 to a biodisc.

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